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ADDRESS

To the People of New Mexico, in relation to their present difficulties with the Navajoe Indians.

FELLOW CITIZENS:

At length the occasion presents itself to you to redeem yourselves, your families and your country from the accursed condition of subjection to the savages who so long have preyed upon your vitals. For months the bells of your sacred edifices have tolled incessantly the obsequies of your slaughtered citizens; for months have their mangled corpses been crowding your graveyards. Your spiritual fathers are exhausted in their sad labor of ministering the mournful rites of sepulture to your dead, and of tendering the consolations of our holy faith to their surviving and sorrowing friends. Long, patiently, and anxiously have you looked and prayed for the retributive power which should avenge your murdered kindred, re-conquer your infested settlements, recover your captured property, and re-secure your devastated fields. The government which had pledged you its protection, had apparently abandoned you to your fate; and though your desparing cries arose to heaven, they invoked no earthly aid.

But now, thanks be to a benignant Providence, better counsels prevail and brighter prospects open up before us. One effort now, worthy of a gallant people, and we are free, and free forever from the bloody and barbarous foe which depopulates and impoverishes us. Large reinforcements of the regular army have but just arrived in our Territory, and we have the assurance of the military Commandant that they will be at once employed against our savage enemy. But, formidable as are those forces, gallant as are their leaders, and brave as are their men, something more, it is universally conceded, is necessary to insure such a campaign against the hordes who assail us on all sides, as will finally and forever subdue them and secure to our people protection and peace. The country occupied by the Navajoes is extensive and difficult; the season for active and efficient operations within it is drawing to a close, the regular troops at the disposal of the Military Commandant have arrived with exhausted teams and are without the fresh and efficient equipment essential to the accomplishment, at this advanced period of the year, of all which it is so necessary should be accomplished without even a moment's delay.

Under these circumstances, to you the People of New Mexico, the appeal is made for that co-operation with the regular army which will subdue for ever the savage foes who have cost you so much blood and so much property. Respond promptly, raise a volunteer force of a thousand men, and we have the promise of the Governor of the Territory that he will call them into the field and supply them with arms. We have the assurance of the Military Commandant that he will supply them with ammunition and accept cordially their co-operation. This, Fellow Citizens, if not all we could desire, yet is much to be thankful for. Though it would be better if the Volunteers proposed to be raised could be mustered into the regular service, and thus be entitled to subsistence and pay; yet, this being unattainable, let us not underrate the advantages which are offered for our acceptance. Let us, even at some sacrifice of our immediate interests, make one effort worthy of us to cast off forever the intolerable yoke which bears us to the earth. But whatever may be the immediate inconvenience, there can be no doubt, that this endeavor will ultimately result to your highest interest. The burden of subsisting these men in the field, will have to be borne first by you; but better that you should thus expend your means than be stripped of them by the plundering bands who already take and destroy them. Better subscribe SOME in the effort to recover the MUCH which has been lost, than to lose ALL through an unworthy and culpable avarice. Even then, if there were no hope of any compensation ever being made for the subsistence furnished, and the services done, it would still be your interest as it is your duty to supply them. But not only is there hope but almost certain hope, that such compensation will sooner or later be made. The Congress of the United States has never yet finally refused justice to her citizens engaged in the defence of their lives and the protection of their property. Delays may occur, but in the end the right will prevail. Scout, therefore, the suggestions of suspicion and distrust; confide in the ultimate justice of your Government; and let not base doubts or unpatriotic counsels deter you from the discharge of a high duty, and the promotion of your own best interests.

That the men are ready and can be easily raised for the service proposed, we permit ourselves not to doubt. The gallant sons of New Mexico have never heretofore failed to make a prompt response to the call of their country. The means of subsisting them in the field present, as we believe, the only obstacles worthy of consideration. The measures to be taken to surmount these obstacles will be suggested in detail in a separate letter.

A
N.M. Citizens
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ens, we address you thus solemnly by the authority and under the instruction of a large, most respectable and enthusiastic assemblage of your fellow citizens, who convened in the city of Santa Fé on the twelfth of the present month. That assemblage was composed of a great number of the best and most influential citizens of that place and the surrounding country and was convened for the purpose of considering the measures necessary to be adopted in this alarming emergency for the protection of the lives and property of the people of this Territory. The resolutions of that assemblage deserve your attention and call for an early response. In all the Towns and settlements throughout the Territory we appeal to you to meet at once; organize your committees; ascertain the men and the means which your respective sections can raise and supply for the service proposed; and communicate the result to the undersigned with as little delay as possible.

As an organized means of carrying out the proposed plan with uniformity, and to insure success, (union and concerted action is necessary,) we wonld recommend that in each county a committee be appointed to consult with us at Santa Fé on the 27th instant.

It is probable that by a union of certain capitalists in the Territory who are favorably disposed thereto a contract can be made with the Governor of the Territory for furnishing supplies the payment to be conditional upon an act of Congress providing therefor. In falure of which we would submit as a systematic means of raising the requisite supplies the importance of appointing a committee in each county throughout the Territory, who shall be authorized to receive and receipt for all donations to the general fund, such donation to be made in any article of provision most convenient to the donor, viz:—Beef Cattle, Sheep, Flour, Corn meal, Beans, Coffee, Sugar and means of transportation, these articles to be held by the receiver subject to the order of the Commander of the forces raised; the receipt given to be held as a voucher against the Government of the United States, should Congress eventually allow pay to these troops.

In behalf of your own peace, of your own security; in behalf of the dead who are to be avenged, and of the living who are to be preserved; we adjure you to act with vigor, with promptitude and with determination.

O. P. HOVEY
J. M. GALLEGOS
MIGUEL E. PINO,
FELIPE DELGADO,
} Corresponding Committee.

Santa Fé, N. M.
August 13th 1860.

Address of citizens convention Aug 28/60 signed by Jose L. Perea calling for volunteers for Navajo Campaign in Spanish. Printed copy on file-Hist. Files since '60.